

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13149 201806Z

62

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 PRS-01 EUR-10

RSR-01 /067 W

----- 011962

R 201146Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4905

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13149

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VC

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP - 20 JULY 1973

FOLLOWING SENT SANHON ACTION JULY 20 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG  
NKP THAILAND REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 311

1. MR 3 G-2 REPORTS HIGH LEVEL OSNSZ MILITARY CLASHES IN 48  
HOURS ENDING 8.00 JULY 20. THESE INCLUDED 28 IN FIRST 24  
HOURS AND 32 IN FINAL 24 HOURS; 16 GROUND CONTACTS, 26 ATTACKS  
BY FIRE (FOUR OVER 20 ROUNDS), FOUR COMBINED ATTACKS BY FIRE  
AND GROUND ATTACKS, THREE SMALL ARMS HARASSMENTS, AND 11 GRENADE/  
MINE DETONATIONS. GVN LOSSES INCLUDED 11 KILLED (ONE CIVILIAN),  
71 WOUNDED (FIVE COVILIANS), ONE MISSING, AND NINE M-16S ANL  
TWO M60 X LMGS LOST OR DAMAGED. HEPORTED COMMUNISTS LOSSES  
WERE 60 KIA, FIVE AK 47S, TWO REVOLVERS, ONE CARBINE, ONE  
MAT 49, TWO B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS, ONE MR26 GRENADE, AND 50  
KILOS OF RICE. FOUR COMMUNISTS RALLIED AND THREE SAPPERS AND  
TWO OTHER VC WERE CAPUTRED BY THE GVN. PROVINCE BREAKDOWN  
INDICATES 24 IN BINH DUONG, EIGHT IN BINH LONG; LONG KHANH SIX,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13149 201806Z

AHU NGHIA FIVE, GIA DING FIVE (INCLUDING FOUR GRENADE/MINE

DETONATIONS), TAY NINH, BIEN YXA AND LONG AN THREE EACH, PHUOC LONG TWO AND RUNG SAT SPECIAL ZONE ONE.

2. FIGHTING CONTINUES IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE. AREA ABOVE PHU GIAO ON INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1-A HAS QUIETED DOWN. FOCUS OF CONFLICT HAS SHIFTED TO BELOW PHU GIAO, COMMUNISTS HAVE INTERDICTED 1A AND ARE ATTACKING ARVN ELEMENTS. IN EARLY AFTERNOON JULY :IN ELEMENTS OF 43RD REGIMENT OF ARVN 18TH DIVISION, AND 5TH ARMORED PLATOON, REPORTED RECEIVING 400 ROUNDS MIXED ARTILLERY AND MORTAR AND GROUND ATTACK FROM ESTIMATED NVA BATTALION 11 KM SW OF PHU GIAO (VIC ST 890412), IN WHICH THEY LOST THREE KIA AND 18 WIA WHILE INFLECTING 25 KIA. MEANWHILE, NVA IS SHELLING LAI KHE BASE CAMP WITH 122 MM HOWITZERS, AND THERE HAS BEEN FIGHTING BELOW BEN CAT NEAR NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13, INCLUDING TWO COMPANY-SIZED NAV ATTACKS AGAINST 2ND BN OF 64TH RANGERS 3 KMS SW OF BEN CAT (VIC XT 707317) MORNING JULY 18, WHICH COST RANGERS TWO KILLED AND 11 WOUNDED, WHILE RANGERS CLAIM 25 COMMUNIST KIA BUT ONLY CAPTURED TWO B40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS. PROSPECTS ARE FADING FOR ARVN MILITARY CONVOY UP 1-A AND NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 TO SONG BE- PHUOC BINH AREA, WHICH WAS IMMEDIATE MILITARY JUSTIFICATION FOR 1-A ROAD CLEARING OPERATION. BUT RICE SUPPLY SITUATION IN PHUOC LONG, WHICH HAD BECOME QUITE SERIOUS FOLLOWING CLOSING OF 1-A IN FIGHTING, HAS BEEN EASED BY AIRLIFTS TO PHUOC BINH JULY 17-19 IN WHICH MILITARY HAVE RECEIVED 20.425 TONS OF RICE AND SOME POL, WHILECIVILIANS HAVE RECEIVED 20 TONS OF PROMISED 200. AIRLIFT CONTINUES.

3. LONG KHANH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER HEARS THAT AT 2300 JUNE 15, FIVE HOURS AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM PRG DETENTION, CANDEL CPT. IAN PATTEN CALLED THE ICCS XUAN LOC COMPOUND TO CONTACT HIS GIRL FRIEND, WHOM HE HAD SORELY MISSED DURING HIS ABSENCE. WE OFFER THIS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT CPT. PATTEN SURVIVED HIS ORDEAL SOUND IN MIND AND BODY. LONG KHANH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER COMMENTS THAT PERSONAL RELATIONS AMONG XUAN LOC DELEGATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXCELLENT, DESPITE THE DEADLOCK ON SUBSTATIVE ISSUES WHICH PREVAILS THERE AS ELSEWHERE. HARMONY MAY BE DUE TO LIBERAL POLICIES ON BRINGING GIRLS INTO COMPOUND AS OVER-NIGHT GUESTS. COMMENT: THE TEAM THAT PLAYS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER. END COMMENT. SIGNED WALKINSHA  
UNQUOTE MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON13149  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS MARTIN  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730720/aaaaaoin.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MR 3 SITREP - 20 JULY 1973 FOLLOWING SENT SANHON ACTION JULY 20 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, MILI, VC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005